

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims, i.e. claims 1-19, have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 and 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claims 1-13 and 16-19 have been cancelled in order to reduce the issues before the Office and advance the prosecution of the present application.

Claim 14 has been amended to recite that the location of the tube is through the center of the cartridge in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite the claim as being a "method" in order to overcome the rejection as to the statutory class of the claim, and also with respect to the objection with respect to the location of the gas and water outlets.

In view of the amendments to the only two claims remaining in the application, i.e. claims 14 and 15, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 and 101 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Lipp GMBH (DE 20202722). It is stated that Lipp discloses at least one biofilter cartridge which functions to sustain microbial activity that will function to consume H₂S contained in a stream of methane gas, which includes establishing a stream of gas, and transporting the stream directly into a biofilter which contains at least one cartridge containing selected microorganisms which function to biodegrade hydrogen sulfide, followed by recirculating the treated methane to a storage reservoir. As currently amended, claim 15 specifically recites the location of the water and gas outlets, and the function of the waste steam and treatment of the gas. It has also been amended to recite that the microorganisms are contained on a particulate carrier medium. It is respectfully submitted that Lipp does not teach or suggest the combination of the inlets and outlets as now defined in claim 15, and the resultant flow of gases and water through the system, and the particulate carrier which is distinct from the plastic bristles of Lipp. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lipp in view Jutzi and Walter. Lipp is relied upon for the teachings described above.

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Reference to Jutzi is relied upon for disclosing that it is known in the art to provide the gas inlet of a biological air filter with an inlet fan. The reference to Walter is relied upon for disclosing that it is known in the art to provide a biofilter housing as a separate component relative to a water reservoir space.

In view of the amendments to claim 14 reciting the location of the center tube, and function and flow of the water and gas through the system, it is submitted that the prior art, separately or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. Claim 14 has been further amended to recite that the microorganisms are contained on a particulate carrier medium which is distinct from the bristles of Lipp.

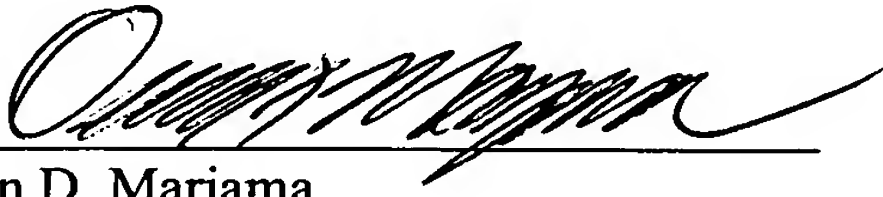
In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the above rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and the instant application passed to issue at an early date.

If the Examiner wishes to expedite disposition of the above-captioned patent application, he is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

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